

plause, there seemed to be a disposition among the business men for peace between the Mormons and the Gentiles, while the project of making Utah a State seemed to be universally popular. Several references were made to the silver question, and amid the deafening applause that followed, I learned for the first time of the intense sentiment in that region in favor of the free coinage of silver.

THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF THE SAINTS.

It is almost impossible to convey in words the delightful impression which the city of Salt Lake produces upon the stranger. All of its ordinary streets are 132 feet in width and its blocks are 600 feet long. One or two of the streets are about 200 feet wide, and several of them extend out on the plains ten, twelve and fourteen miles, straight as an arrow. The city has many handsome business structures, and is full of handsome, comfortable homes. Of course, the most interesting features of the city are those connected with the institution of Mormondom.

WONDERFUL BUILDINGS.

A partial description has already been given of the Tabernacle. It has long been one of the noted buildings of the world. It was until recently the only building in the world having so large an unsupported roof. The design is entirely original and its adaptation to its purpose is perfect. And yet this building was designed and built years and years ago, when Utah was almost as inaccessible to the outside world as the heart of Africa. Brigham Young was the planner and designer of this building, as well as of the new Temple, the building of which was begun in 1853 and which will not be completed for several years yet. When this building was first begun it was necessary to drag the mammoth blocks of granite which compose its foundation with oxen twenty miles from the quarries in the mountains. When completed it will have an auditorium that will seat 15,000 people and will be one of the noted religious edifices of the world.

A LOVELY AND BEAUTIFUL LAND.

The agricultural resources of the great valleys of Utah are limited only by the amount of water that can be drawn from the everlasting hills. It is a lovely and beautiful land, abounding in every good thing, and it is little wonder that the devout Mormons, when they came and settled there, believed that they had found a second Canaan, that bore out the description of the original land of promise as given in the Bible. Whoever travels in the great West should see Salt Lake City and Utah. The memory of it will be a joy and pleasure to him all the days of his life.

The entertainment of the citizens of Salt Lake was so profuse that we did not get away from their city until half-past 1 in the morning, when we started by way of the Southern Pacific Railroad for our last and longest run of 890 miles to San Francisco and the Golden Gate.

FRANK RAYMOND.

We publish the foregoing well written account of the visit of the Press Club to Utah, chiefly because the "Liberal" organ of this city took a single paragraph from it, and com-

mented upon it sarcastically and with the intimation that the writer had misrepresented the sentiments expressed by "Mormons" and "Gentiles" on the statehood question.

It is a fact that the general expression among the visitors and those who entertained them, was as stated by Mr. Frank Raymond. There are a number of non-"Mormons" who think statehood should not be rushed, and who are adverse to the immediate admission of Utah. But there are none, so far as we are aware, who do not admit that this issue cannot be put off very long. It is not statehood that is objected to, but immediate action upon it to hurry it precipitately which is objected to.

Is it not a fact that even the *Tribune* appeared to advocate statehood as an offset or rather destroyer of the "home rule" bill? And would not anyone unacquainted with its tactics conclude from its editorial utterances that it had no great repugnance to statehood as an immediate measure, so that the Faulkner bill should not prevail?

We venture to say, that if this question were put before the people of Utah today, providing it did not hurry matters too quickly, an overwhelming majority of the votes of the people would be for release from local bondage, and that even the "Liberal" vote in opposition would be ridiculously small. Salt Lake is not Utah by any means, and when it comes to the issue, Salt Lake itself will not be strongly against political liberty for all. Raymond is much nearer right than the *Tribune* desires to make it appear.

THE ASCENCION REBELLION.

Editor Deseret News:

For the information of your multitude of readers I give as follows a synopsis of the history of the troubles in our neighboring town of La Ascencion, which culminated in the tragedies of a few days since.

Four years ago Senor Rafael Ancheta was elected, by considerable majority, president of the municipality of La Ascencion, an office combining some of the functions of mayor, justice of the peace and minister of finance for the town. During his term of office (two years) a law was passed by the legislature providing for the imposition and collection of certain taxes, to provide for the more sure maintenance of free schools and general municipal income. Mr. Ancheta, of course, commenced the enforcement of said law, and, it is claimed, originated a tax on water rights which has since also been enforced.

The poorer class, who felt most keenly the burden of these new taxes, attributed their misfortunes to Mr. Ancheta and his party (known throughout the nation as the Liberal party), and joined the ranks of the Conservatives, or Church party, to such an extent that it was with some difficulty that the Liberals succeeded in electing one of their numbers as Mr. Ancheta's successor in office, two years ago. The alleged merciless way in which the taxes were collected, together perhaps with some persuading from the ranker church partisans, increased the discontent to such an extent that with the exception of the government officials and their relatives and friends,

almost the whole population took sides with the Church party. I might here stop to make the comment that, if the Church party had not made that grand blunder a number of years ago, of overturning their republican form of government, and inviting Maximilian over, it would be almost impossible to make anything but Conservatives of the poorer class of Mexicans; for they are almost all Catholics, especially in outlying districts like this.

But, to return; both sides prepared to do their best in the municipal election this fall; and in order to help the cause still more, if possible, the government (State) publicly made Mr. Ancheta its nominee. But he would undoubtedly have been defeated by the popular vote, if the opposing party had not become discouraged at seeing the polling places in the hands of Mr. Ancheta's adherents, and resolved to carry their votes to Chihuahua to be counted by themselves, thereby giving the government a chance to reject their votes as illegal, and to declare Mr. Ancheta elected as a consequence.

Such a proceeding might seem strange were it not for the fact that the voting is done here by means of a ballot officially issued to each voter on the registration list, with a blank space for the candidates' names—each ballot therefore, bearing an official seal and the voter's name.

The outcome of it all was that Mr. Ancheta was officially declared elected, by the election judges in Chihuahua city, and took his seat on the 1st inst., and the pet of the opposite party was accused of sedition because of the gathering of his friends on election day at a grist mill belonging to him, where they met to unite their ballots, and where some inflammatory speeches were made. A few nights afterwards Mr. Ancheta was sitting at a table playing cards (nothing uncommon), with his back towards a deal door that opened upon the street, when some of the Conservatives entered to see how the land lay, and a few minutes afterwards a bullet crashed through the door, just grazed its intended victim, and shattered a friend's elbow across the table.

Some more of the pets of the opposition were arrested for this and thrown into jail, and rumors of what was going to be done with them raised the excitement to fever heat.

The climax was reached on the 7th inst., when in the afternoon a body of from seventy-five to a hundred men secretly assembled behind an adobe corral near the plaza, and sent a very few of their number still nearer the plaza, to make a demonstration, well knowing, perhaps, that their intended victim, because of his personal courage, would be among the first to face the danger. The plan worked well and Mr. Ancheta, accompanied by a single friend, appeared and commanded them to disperse, and, on their refusal to obey, commenced to take their names as seditious persons, when he suddenly found himself surrounded by a large body of his enemies. He expostulated with them to no avail, and then attempted to draw his pistol, but was struck from behind with a gun, knocked down, and dragged off. He is said to have told them while they were dragging him away, that they had better make their work sure, for, if